

Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Travis J. Parry

Serial No.: 10/092,050

Filed: March 5, 2002

Docket No.: 10008068-1

Title: PRINTER OPTION SUGGESTION METHOD AND PROGRAM**RECEIVED**
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**JUN 19 2006****IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 21 and 22 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 8-13, 16, 17, and 20 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for improving ~~[[the]]~~ use of printing devices in a network computer system, comprising:
 - determining ~~[[the]]~~ usage characteristics of at least one printing device;
 - determining ~~[[the]]~~ all options available for each of said at least one printing ~~devices~~ device;
 - determining ~~[[any]]~~ all installed options currently existing on said at least one printing device; and
 - determining ~~a way to optimize a set of optimal options for~~ said at least one printing device ~~from based on~~ said usage characteristics, said available options and said installed options.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising suggesting at least one change to said at least one printing device for optimizing the use of said at least one printing device with said network computer system.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said suggesting at least one change to said at least one printing device for optimizing the use of said at least one printing device with said network computer system comprises suggesting an option selected from the group consisting of using a toner miser function, turning on a job retention memory, and suggesting other printing device configurations.

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4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises determining the usage characteristics of all printing devices operating on said network computer system.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises monitoring said at least one printing device to determine said usage characteristics.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises retrieving said usage characteristics from a database.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the usage characteristics of at least one printing device comprises determining at least one usage characteristic selected from the group consisting of paper use rate, toner use rate, power use rate, time of print job request, consumable use per job rate, and print job request rate.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining ~~[[the]]~~ all options available for ~~each of said at least one printing devices~~ device comprises retrieving said available options from a database.

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9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining ~~[[the]]~~ all options available for ~~each of~~ said at least one printing ~~devices~~ device comprises querying said at least one printing device to retrieve said available options.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining ~~[[the]]~~ all options available for ~~each of~~ said at least one printing ~~devices~~ device comprises querying a web-site for said available options.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining ~~[[any]]~~ all installed options currently existing on said at least one printing device comprises retrieving said installed options from a database.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining ~~[[any]]~~ all installed options currently existing on said at least one printing device comprises querying said at least one printing device to retrieve said ~~available~~ installed options.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining ~~a way to~~ optimize a set of optimal options for said at least one printing device ~~from based on~~ said usage characteristics, said available options and said installed options comprises using fuzzy logic to determine ~~said way to optimize~~ said set of optimal options for said at least one printing device.

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14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising suggesting at least one service to incorporate with said at least one printing device for providing enhanced usage of said at least one printing device.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein said suggesting at least one service to incorporate with said at least one printing device comprises suggesting at least one service selected from the group consisting of a maintenance service, a charge per page service, and a printing device monitoring service.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for suggesting printing device options in a network computer system, comprising:

operating a device management program on a computer connected to a network communication;

determining ~~[[the]]~~ usage characteristics including an amount and type of use of at least one printing device with said device management program;

operating a computer program on said computer;

using said computer program to determine ~~[[the]]~~ all options available for said at least one printing device;

using said computer program to determine ~~[[any]]~~ all installed options present on said at least one printing device; and

using said computer program to determine an optimal set of options for said at least one printing device based on said usage characteristics, said available options and said installed options.

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17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said using said computer program to determine ~~[[the]]~~ all options available for said at least one printing device comprises:

connecting to the Internet; and

querying a web-site for information about said at least one printing device.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said computer program is configured to communicate with said device management program.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said computer program is a component of said device management program.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein using said computer program to determine an optimal set of options for said at least one printing device comprises using said computer program to compare said installed options with said available options.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)